GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5065
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008
NON TARIFF BARRIERS BETWEEN INDIA AND SAARC
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the types of non-tariff barriers existing between India and SAARC countries;

(b) the extent of approximate loss due to such barriers; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove such barriers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) During the meeting of SAFTA Committee of Experts (COE), the member countries had constituted a Sub-Group on Non-Tariff Measures to look into Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and Para-Tariff Measures (PTMs) applied by one member country against the other.This Sub-Group was mandated to look into the NTMs and PTMs which are trade restrictive and hinder in the way of providing market access to other member countries. The Sub-Group is yet to submit its recommendations to SAFTA COE.

(c) India has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task Force under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry to look into the issues of non-tariff barriers adopted by India as alleged by other countries.This Task Force has categorized these NTMs and PTMs into custom cooperation, trade facilitation and infrastructure, sanitary, phyto-sanitary issues and technical barriers to trade. The Task force is expected to make its recommendations when its deliberations are completed.